



1936 Christian Brothers Football Team

Top Row: Ed Katsulis, Bill Palm, George Gillette, Bob "Red" Lewis, Bob Shorrock, Ken Belke, Bill Stewart, Bobby Williams, Bill Diage, Jim McPartland, Joe Puliz. Middle Row: Brother Peter, F.S.C., Bill Lally, Neil Heinrich, Jack Chappell, Ed Mensik, Marion Puliz, Norm Caldera, Adrian Bennett, Joe Vacca, Art Hagus, Assistant Coach Bert Silva, Head Coach Jimmy Flynn. Bottom Row: Don O'Brien, Pete Archerda, Art Walters, Vic Martinelli, Charley Schanz, Ted Ravelette, Bill Wittkop, Manny Soares (Captain), Dave Simmons, John McPartland, Ross Miller, Jack O'Neil. Not Pictured: Jack Coughlin, Jack Dorr, Cliff Russell, Assisant Coach Al Scott, Trainer "Bugs" Fischer.

FLYNN TEAMS

by Stan Gilliam

Back in the 1930's there were dragons—big purple Dragons, to be exact—on the prowl in these parts, and the unlikely St. George on the scene was an Irish leprechaun. To put it in biblical terms, David, in the person of youthful Christian Brothers football coach Jimmy Flynn, was up against Goliath in the form of Sacramento High's football team.

The year was 1935, and though there were few local schools, interest ran high in prep football. Daily for the week before the game newspapers—the

Given their best chance in years to win!



Coach Jimmy Flynn

Bee and the now defunct Union -- ran stories and pictures. The pre-Falcon Gaels were "given their best chance in years to win," which was saying little because prior seasons they'd had no chance at all.

But Flynn, a grinning carbon copy, right down to the fedora, of his college coach at St. Mary's, the legendary "Slip" Madigan, was not to be denied. After a scoreless first half, halfback Adrian Bennett rifled passes to George Gillette and Bill Stewart, the latter recently deceased, which ate up 70 yards. Bobby Williams took the ball the final eight yards for the only score of the night. After 20 years of trying, Brothers had its reward.

Flynn's charges made short work of both Sutter Creek and Jackson, blanked St. Vincent's of Vallejo 11-0 and fought St. Mary's of Stockton to a 6-6 tie.

Facing Grant Union, also undefeated, for the mythical city championship, the Gaels came out on the short end of a 13-0 score. But the one still not forgotten by those who played in it and watched it is the 6-0 historic victory over Sacramento's Dragons.

Bent on revenge and again favored, the 1936 Dragons were confident of reversing the previous year's upset. And, as in 1935, they again outplayed the Brothers gridders in a scoreless first half. But Flynn must have had the magic words during halftime because the second-half story was entirely different.

After Leo Bennett and Ted Gardner took turns carrying the ball for three first downs, quarterback Ralph Gillette sent Bob Lewis around the left side of the Dragons for 20 yards and a touchdown.

In the fourth quarter it was Pete Archerda and Gardner running for first downs before Archerda—who may have been this city's best-ever prep athlete, lettering in three sports for four straight years—hit paydirt from six yards out. Bennett again ran for the conversion, and the final count was 14-0.

Brothers evened the score—and more—against Grant Union, drubbing the previous year's

1937, Sacramento High prevailed 19-0, upping the point count to 44, 45 and 50 through the ensuing three seasons. The Gaels, in those years, managed a collective goose egg.

They fared no better against upstart C.K. McClatchy, which opened in 1937, and if memory serves, the only victory in those last three years was 16-0 against Colusa.

As for Flynn, he had a long



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Middle Row: Brother Joseph Buckley, F.S.C., Marion Puliz, Norm Caldera, Bob Shorrock, Bill Wittkop, Harold Petois, Coach Jimmy Flynn, Cliff Russell, John Cummings, Vic Fancher, Pat Lyons, Art Walters, Trainer "Bugs" Fischer

Bottom Row: Ted Ravelte, Dave Simmons, Rich Trainor, Al Ball, Tom Harris, Bill Gormley, Mickey Marquez, Ellis Archerda, Joe Vacca, Billy Hanlom, Joe Puliz, Ralph Gillette, Ken Belke.

Managers: Bob Meusel, Archie Crossland, Morris Crosby.

victors 24-0. They went on to beat St. Vincent's 12-0 and also upended St. Mary's of Stockton and Grass Valley—those scores are lost in the mists of time—to complete an undefeated season.

The city schools obviously knew they had met their match—and their master—and solved their dilemma in the only way they could: The hired Flynn.

That Christian Brothers' football fortunes faded drastically is a fact well recalled by the writer. In his freshman year,

and distinguished career at the Dragon institution but coached a SHS gridiron team against CBS only once, in 1942. The leprechaun's spell prevailed still. Flynn and his Dragons won 22-0. ♦

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